

U of A the place to be as the fall term begins

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta started its 103rd year of classes Sept. 7 with 38,500 students walking the five campuses that make up the institution.

According to Gerry Kendal, the U of A registrar, this class started out with 8,400 new students chosen from more than 20,000 applicants, of which, 5,300 were admitted directly from high school, the highest number yet.

"At a time when people are concerned about an aging population and changing demographics, the increase in high-school applicants really reflects great recruiting in the faculties and here," said Kendal. "It says the university is still attracting high-school students, which is very good, some [universities] aren't."

The total number of undergraduate students attending the U of A for the 2011–12 academic year will be slightly more than 31,000, while the number of graduate students will be close to 7,400. Also, females will account for about 55 per cent of the overall student body this year, which Kendal says is well within the national average.

He adds that the university is headed for a population of 74 per cent population who have a Alberta home address, with 4,700 international students attending, which is up by about 400 over last year.

"These numbers reflect the cachet of the university," said Kendal. "People really want to come to this place."



Marina Endicott

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A little greenery

Tory gets facelift with a living wall

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Meet the Dean



Gregory Taylor, dean of the Faculty of Science, was in Quad Sept. 7 to greet students on the first day of classes.

Six faculty named to the Royal Society of Canada



(L-R) Richard Fedorak, Jan Selman, Andy Knight, John Newman, James Shapiro and Joel Weiner have been elected fellows of the Royal Society of Canada.

Michael Brown

In recognition of their outstanding scholarly and scientific achievement, six University of Alberta faculty members have been elected to the Royal Society of Canada.

The new fellows are gastroenterologist Richard Fedorak, political scientist Andy Knight, linguist John Newman, drama professor Jan Selman, Edmonton Protocol transplant surgeon James Shapiro and biochemist Joel Weiner. "These six U of A professors are

leaders in learning and research in the arts and sciences and a reflection of our academic excellence," said President Indira Samarasekera. "I offer my congratulations to our Royal Society fellows. We are extremely proud that they have been recognized for their outstanding work and its impact on their disciplines and society."

The Royal Society of Canada was founded in 1882 and is Canada's oldest and most prestigious scholarly institute. With this year's inductees, the U of A now has 103 members.

"It seems to me that the more RSC fellows this university has, the higher will be its profile across Canada and the globe," said Knight, a world leader in the study of international organizations, global governance and human security.

“ These six U of A professors are leaders in learning and research in the arts and sciences and a reflection of our academic excellence.”

Indira Samarasekera

"What [being honoured] says to me is that I must have been doing something right over these years of pursuing my research agenda and that my work must have had some impact on people," he said.

Continued on page 2

Endicott longlisted for Giller

Folio Staff

Augustana Campus professor Marina Endicott has earned a place on the Scotiabank Giller prize longlist for the second time. The nomination, announced Sept. 6, is for her novel *The Little Shadows*. Her last novel, *Good to a Fault*, was shortlisted in 2008.

Lynn Coady, the U of A's writer-in residence in 2008, has also earned a place on the longlist for her novel *The Antagonist*. The Giller prize was founded in 1994. The award recognized excellence in Canadian fiction—long format or short stories—and endows a prize of \$25,000, the largest purse for literature in the country.



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No response means the University of Alberta assumes an individual wishes to remain on the mailing list.

Edmonton Clinic Health Academy is up and running



This artist's rendition shows that the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy began life as a drawing in 2004.

Anne Pratt

The Edmonton Clinic Health Academy is the realization of an extraordinary vision—a building that is purpose-built to support the transformation of health service, education and research,” says Jane Drummond.

In 2004, Drummond, vice-provost for the Health Sciences Council, and the Office of the University Architect set out to design a leading, state-of-the-art enabler of integrated, patient-centred clinic care, education and research. Seven years later, on time and on budget, the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy is opening its doors to thousands of students “who will lead the health-care transformation called for by so many policy-makers, educators, practitioners, patients and communities,” said Drummond.

During the coming weeks, more than 1,400 faculty and staff from 12 academic groups representing six faculties will move into their new spaces in the academy, says Drummond, and that “everyone who works or studies in the building is part of a new way of thinking and doing.”

“This is an approach,” says Drummond, “that allows all of us—researchers, teachers, students and the wider community—to more fully access the

very best of the U of A’s research and education capacities by adding one critical tool. That tool is collaboration,” she says. “We are not replacing the tools in the toolkit; we’re adding this to the other excellent tools that are already there.”

Canada’s population is getting older, with the 65-and-older demographic growing most rapidly. Significant advances in the understanding and treatment of chronic illness mean more people can manage these conditions and live longer, healthier lives. At the same time, jurisdictions all over Canada are exploring new ideas about health-care accessibility, quality and sustainability.

“The approach that holds the best promise for the future is interdisciplinary health research, dovetailed with the needs of the community and interprofessional, team-based education supported by simulation technology,” says Martin Ferguson-Pell, dean of rehabilitation medicine and chair of the Health Sciences Council. “The Edmonton Clinic Health Academy delivers both, and positions the University of Alberta at the very leading edge of health-care transformation in Canada.”

Three spaces in the health academy highlight the philosophy behind academic programming for the building: the Health Sciences Education and Research Commons, the Interdisciplinary

Health Research Academy Discovery Mall and the Student Commons. “The research commons comprises 18,000-square-feet of the most advanced functional learning space in North America,” says Sharla King, assistant professor in the Faculty of Education and director of the research commons. “This space was designed to support collaborative team education using state-of-the-art simulation technology.”

Kathy Kovacs Burns is the associate director of Health Sciences Council and interim director of the Interdisciplinary Health Research Academy. “The Discovery Mall will be easily reconfigured research space,” she says. “There will be a shared data registry capable of storing and mining massive amounts of information from multiple sources, all of which can be cross-referenced between and among the various research clusters and teams. Space can be reconfigured, literally overnight, to suit the needs of teams as they approach new phases of their research.”

In the Student Commons, the executive of 12 health-sciences student associations and groups will share space, both administrative and casual. “This meeting of young minds is perhaps our most important tool for change. From their student days onward, these young

women and men will work in environments in which the whole is much more than the sum of its parts,” says Drummond. “When they leave ECHA, they will enter the community prepared to lead the change that will transform health care for all Canadians.”

The Edmonton Clinic Health Academy will be fully occupied by the end of December 2011. ■

Who will make the ECHA home:

Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

- Department of Dentistry
- Department of Pediatrics
- Community Engagement
- Continuous Professional Learning
- Department of Medical Laboratory Science

Faculty of Nursing

School of Public Health

Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Health Sciences Council

Health Sciences Education and Research Commons

Interdisciplinary Health Research Academy

Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences

- Human Nutrition Group

Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine

- Rehab Robotics Lab

2011 RSC inductions run the U of A's total to 103 members

Continued from page 1

critical writing.”

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry is sending three fellows to the Royal Society of Canada led by Shapiro, who developed a new islet cell transplant procedure that has allowed patients with Type 1 diabetes to discontinue insulin therapy—a remarkable achievement that stands as the biggest breakthrough in the fight against diabetes since insulin was discovered in 1922 by a team of Canadian researchers that included U of A researcher James Collip.

Fedorak, an international leader in inflammatory bowel disease research, says it is a great honour to be nominated to the Royal Society of Canada, especially given that the nomination comes from one’s peers. “The University of Alberta has had a tremendously positive impact on my research over the years and has given me opportunities not only in research, but opportunities in teaching, administration and leadership,” he said. “It has also allowed me to extend my academic activities outside the university onto the national and international stage.”

The acknowledgement of one’s peers is also not lost on Weiner, whose contributions to the function of proteins, especially in energy conservation, make him a household name in biochemistry labs around the world. However, he says that, with any recognition, it really reflects on the outstanding abilities of the entire laboratory research team.

“It is not by any means a one-man show. I have been very lucky to have outstanding trainees, research colleagues and collaborators over many years that have allowed me to explore research discoveries and to tackle problems in a multidisciplinary way.”

Joel Weiner

“It is not by any means a one-man show. I have been very lucky to have outstanding trainees, research colleagues and collaborators over many years that have allowed me to explore research discoveries and to tackle problems in a multidisciplinary way.”

Weiner also credits his success with the collaborative atmosphere on campus, pointing to the creation, along with U of A biochemist Marek Michalak, of the Membrane Protein Research Group in the mid-1980s.

“This is internationally recognized as an outstanding research group and has created an environment that has stimulated recruitment of excellent investigators and trainees and it has allowed all the members research programs to flourish by providing an environment for discussion and exchange of ideas.” ■

U of A tops Canada Foundation for Innovation funding list

Michael Brown

University of Alberta researchers are the recipients of \$4.9 million in funding—more than any other Canadian university—thanks to 18 grants from the Canada Foundation for Innovation's Leaders Opportunity Fund.

Rona Ambrose, minister of public works and government services and minister for status of women, and Tim Uppal, minister of state (democratic reform), were on campus Sept. 1 for the announcement of new funding aimed at support cutting-edge equipment and facilities at Canadian universities.

"Our government is investing in science and technology to create jobs, improve the quality of life of Canadians and strengthen the economy," said Ambrose. "This investment will make sure that our scientists have the tools they need to be successful, and help Canada develop, attract and retain the world's best researchers."

The announcement was made at the new Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science—a first of its kind in Canada in terms of bringing together researchers across scientific disciplines to facilitate a cross-fertilization of ideas and techniques as never before. Established scientists will interact with a new generation of world-class researchers and outstanding students, sharing sophisticated tools and state-of-the-art facilities, to which funding such as that from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, is essential, said Debra Pozega Osburn, vice-president (university relations).

"Competition for the best and

brightest minds is fiercer than ever," she said. "New faculty members, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students go where they can have the biggest impact. More of these talented individuals will choose the U of A for its excellent laboratories, equipment and other facilities."

One such individual was chemistry professor Ratmir Derda, who came to the U of A in February by way of the University of Moscow, the University of Wisconsin and Harvard. Derda received a \$229,000 CFI grant for laboratory space within in the centre. The chemist and his team are developing a novel paper-based diagnostics device that does not require power. He said the device can serve as a platform for cell culture in environments with limited resources because cells grow in paper just as they do in a culture dish. Paper-based tests that use bacteriophage, viruses that attack bacteria, instead of antibodies, which can be produced on-site to diagnose diseases like malaria, HIV or tuberculosis. Paper-supported 3-D structures can also be used to create a cell-based diagnostic tool to help in the detection of cancer.

Derda says having a lab, a team of grad students and access to a large dedicated medical school and cancer centre were the main reasons he chose Edmonton, but was pleasantly surprised by the level of co-operation across the institution.

"The campus is created in such a way that there are so many centres of excellence open to collaboration," said Derda. "I have been in all sorts of institutions and it is often difficult to build these connections because they don't have the culture of collaborative work. The U of A is pretty awesome in that way." ■



Chemistry professor Ratmir Derda (right) addresses the crowd during the Canada Foundation for Innovation funding announcement made in the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science Sept. 1.

The 18 U of A projects funded by new CFI grants

- Soil, Water, Air, Manure, Plant (SWAMP) Lab: Analytical Infrastructure for Studying Trace Element Cycling at Interfaces: \$800,000
- Holocene Archeology of Northeast Asia: \$793,932
- Prion Imaging Laboratory: \$80,000
- Advanced Analytical Facility for Environmental Soil Research: \$216,458
- An Ultra-Sensitive Device for Measuring and Imaging Trace Radioactive Impurities in Materials for Dark Matter Searches: \$120,000
- Creation of a Laboratory to Study the Role of the Hsp90 Chaperone in Cancer: \$333,232
- Defining New Roles for Bcl-2 Family Members in Breast Cancer:
- Implications for Improved Treatment Options and Novel Therapies: \$192,573
- Infrastructure for Telerobotic & Biorobotic Systems Laboratory: \$170,000
- Infrastructure for the Environmental Surface Research Laboratory: \$105,000
- Innate and Adaptive Killer Lymphocyte Responses: \$388,594
- Innovative Research Infrastructure to Propel Implementation and Evaluation of Comprehensive School Health: \$175,399
- Laboratory for Investigation of Spatiotemporal Molecular Gradients in Biological Systems: Screening Infrastructure for Dynamic Molecular Tools, Materials, and Synthetic Ex-
- tracellular Environments: \$228,958
- Laboratory for Monitoring the Pathogenic Potential of Environmental Bacterial Populations: \$100,000
- Lipid Metabolic Disorders: \$396,157
- Preterm Birth: Prediction, Prevention and Technology Commercialization: \$291,641
- Research Infrastructure for the Characterization of Interfacial Properties, Intermolecular and Surface Interactions in Soft Materials, Nanomaterials and Biological Systems: \$100,000
- Super-Resolution Imaging of Virus-Host Interactions: \$400,000
- The Role and Discovery of Bioactive Small Molecules from Marine Microbial Communities: \$100,000

University mourns tragic passing of promising scientist

Michel Proulx

Suzanne Abele, 27, died suddenly on Aug. 19.

Abele had recently completed her master's degree in conservation biology, working on the ecology of forest snails and slugs and how they are influenced by forestry practices. She had been hired last spring as core team leader for the Ecosystem Management Emulating Natural Disturbance forestry research project and was directing the activities of a team collecting data at the project's site northwest of Peace River.

"She was a leader," said John Spencer, who leads the project and was Suzanne's co-supervisor during her master's program. "She was able to lead from within. Not everybody is able to do that."

Ellen Macdonald, who co-supervised Abele, said she was bright, hard-working, beautiful, warm, funny and happy.

"She was pretty special. Everyone who met her liked her. I can't think of anyone who didn't. The world is



Suzanne Abele

a worse place off without her," said Macdonald.

She added that Abele was an excellent scientist with limitless potential, as well as being an accomplished musician. She had sung soprano and traveled with the University of Alberta Madrigal Singers during her undergraduate years before joining the Da Camera Singers in 2009.

She was also very close to her family, including her parents, two sisters and two brothers. ■



**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
UNITED WAY
2011 CAMPAIGN**

A Message from President Indira Samarasekera

For many years, University of Alberta staff, faculty and students have enthusiastically supported the annual United Way Campaign—by participating in events, volunteering their time, and giving much needed financial support. We are well-known for our contributions to the greater community, and the United Way is just one of the worthy causes which we have generously supported.

You can choose how your gift will have an impact. You might give to the Community Fund, where your gift will be directed by the United Way towards high priority needs in the Alberta Capital Region. Or you might direct your gift towards a particular need, such as Education—All That Kids Can Be, Income—From Poverty to Possibility, or Wellness—Healthy People, Strong Communities.

This year, our campus campaign runs from September 16 to October 21, and the challenge for all of us will be to build upon the extraordinary success of our past campaigns. I am pleased to support the 2011 University of Alberta United Way Campaign, and encourage you all to get involved.

Sincerely,

Indira V. Samarasekera

Indira V. Samarasekera, O.C.

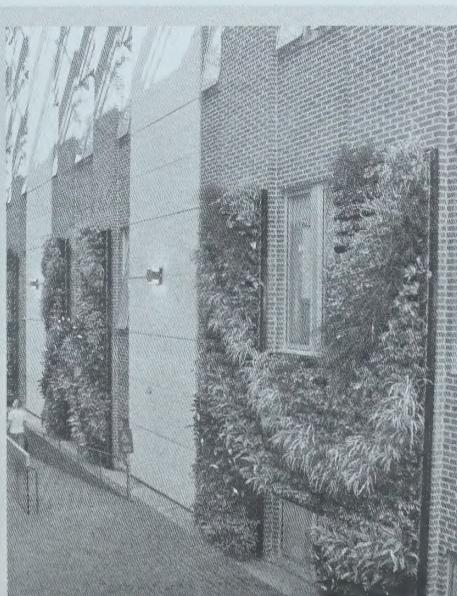
President and Vice-Chancellor

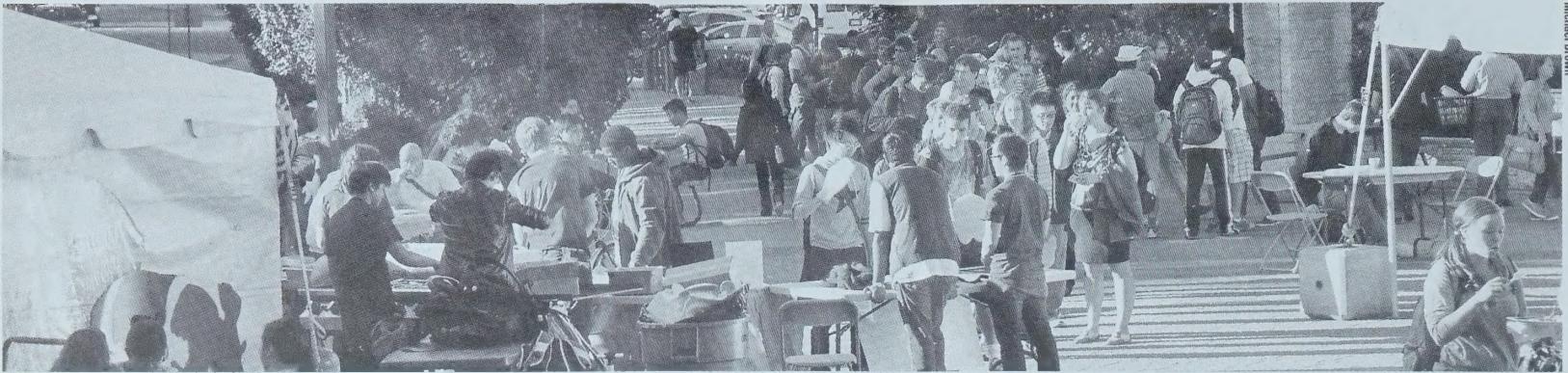


Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Stephen Sutphen, whose name was drawn as part of folio's Aug. 19 "Are You a Winner?" contest. He correctly identified the photo in question as being track cart shed in the northwest corner of the sports field attached to the Clare Drake Arena. For his correct identification, Sutphen has won a swanky evergreen golf shirt.

Up for grabs this week is a stainless-steel coffee mark and an impressive U of A bookmark. To win it, simply identify where the above shed is located and email your answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, Sept. 15, and you will be entered into the draw.





Celebration Plaza was a hub of activity as students descended on campus for the first day of classes Sept. 7.

Michael Brown

Newest evolution of university website improves external presence, interaction

Debra Pozega Osburn
Vice-President (University Relations)

A refreshed University of Alberta website launched Sept. 1. This is a site that is easier to use whether you access it on your traditional computer or mobile device. Perhaps more importantly, though, is that the design, content and information architecture are aimed first at our external audiences—rather than ourselves—many of whom know little of the U of A or how we are organized. The links most frequently used internally, including webmail and directory, remain across the top of each page.

This new site is a major evolution rather than radical departure from where

we were, yet is a cleaner, more vibrant and functional environment.

The design and new features are based on feedback gathered from 2,700 students, staff, faculty and alumni who participated in a February web survey, as well as faculty and unit Web Engagement Goals sessions conducted with faculties during the last six months. Google analytics data showing user needs and preferences also influenced site development. More than 200 students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends were part of online usability studies, to test and tweak the site.

There are several new features designed to make it easier to interact with the U of A online, including:

- Website accessibility on any major

mobile platform (iPhone, BlackBerry, Android);

- Mapping of all U of A campuses, featuring richly detailed 3-D models and 360-degree interactive photos created by U of A industrial design students;
- Consolidation of university news sources from across campus into one site with the ability to subscribe;
- A consolidated calendar of university events, replacing three separate calendars;
- and a look-up list of all degrees we offer, as well as continuing education programs for the general public.

These new top-level pages will integrate fully with new recruitment sites for prospective national and international students that will launch

in the coming days, as part of the strategic recruitment initiatives led by the registrar's office and University of Alberta International. One example is "UAlberta in one minute," a video infographic that introduces the U of A to audiences with little or no previous knowledge of the university.

The work that you see in the new pages and with the new recruitment sites is the result of outstanding collaboration between the registrar's office, University of Alberta International and University Relations teams and truly changes the way that external audiences interact with the U of A online.

The final result is truly a collaborative effort, and I thank all the faculty and staff who, along with our students and alumni,

helped us over the last several months.

I believe that this launch represents a major advancement of the University of Alberta's global online presence, but I also know that there will be wrinkles to iron out. Over the next few weeks, we will be fine-tuning our new site with your help. We welcome your questions and feedback and invite you to join the Feedback Forum if you are interested in being part of future developments.

Our vision is to meet the web-related needs of you and the U of A's wider audience while we become Canada's leading post-secondary digital learning environment, enabled by our web, mobile, social networks and IT systems capabilities. This launch is just the first step towards achieving our long-range goal. ■

The University of Alberta can be a complicated entity with many moving parts. University 101 exists to assist the campus community to better understand who does what and how things get done at the U of A.

Jennifer Kuchta

From art to zoology: A guide to the U of A Museums

*University
101*

For 99 years, the University of Alberta has been building one of Canada's largest museum holdings, with 28 collections in 11 departments dispersed in 120 locations across the north and south campuses, which collectively house 17 million objects. Covering numerous disciplines in human and natural science, this distributed museum model is supported by a central team of museum experts with each museum collection.

While many collections are accessed regularly by researchers, students and the community, the U of A Museums are working towards a centralized curatorial research facility to enhance collaboration, facilitate improved access, encourage further interdisciplinary studies and exhibit collections-based research.

The earliest collecting on campus began in the geology department shortly after the university was founded in 1908. Non-geological specimens and artifacts were subsequently transferred to the appropriate departments. For more information, go to www.museums.ualberta.ca. ■



(Clockwise from top left) Michael Caldwell, curator, Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology; Jocelyn Hall, curator, Vascular Plant Herbarium; Chris Herd, curator of the Meteorite Collection, and Lisa Claypool, curator of the Mactaggart Art Collection. (Supplied photos)

Fast facts about U of A Museums

- The University of Alberta Museums are a designated Category A institution, able to acquire cultural property as certified by the Canadian Cultural Property and Export Review Board. Some of the cultural property acquired by the U of A Museums includes the Mactaggart Art Collection, the Tagish Lake meteorite, the Rosenberg Quilt Collection and a narwhal tusk.
- The Friends of the University of Alberta Museums is a non-profit society, founded in 1984 to support museum activities on campus. Membership is open to all students, staff and community members.
- The Muse Project is a curriculum-linked initiative for kindergarten to Grade 12, developed to provide primary-source object-based learning activities for school-aged children. This is one of many outreach activities using museum collections.
- Science Sunday for Kids is one of the most popular public programs offered by the U of A Museums, which runs the first Sunday of March.
- Thanks to an extensive digitization project, many of the records of U of A museum collections are web-accessible to researchers, students and the public anywhere in the world.

 UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
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**We want to know what you
were up to this summer**

Send folio a high-resolution photo that tells the story of your summer adventures, misadventures or time spent relaxing and we will use it in a future Back Page photo story.

Send entries to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by Sept. 30.

Don't Feed the Thieves! Protective Services launches theft-awareness initiative

Andrew Leitch

Have you heard the story about the student who left his laptop at his spot in the library while he dashed off for coffee? When he came back five minutes later, it was gone.

It's not a funny tale, and Bill Mowbray has heard it too many times in his job as director of University of Alberta Protective Services. Theft of property is the number-one crime at the U of A, he says, with students and staff losing laptops, music players, wallets, purses, bikes and books every year.

University property goes missing too, especially computers and electronics.

We make it too easy for the criminals, says Mowbray. "People feel extremely secure here," says the former

Edmonton Police Services member who moved to the U of A in 2002. "That's a good thing. But, unfortunately it can also mean we have an unrealistic sense of the potential risks. We can be too trusting."

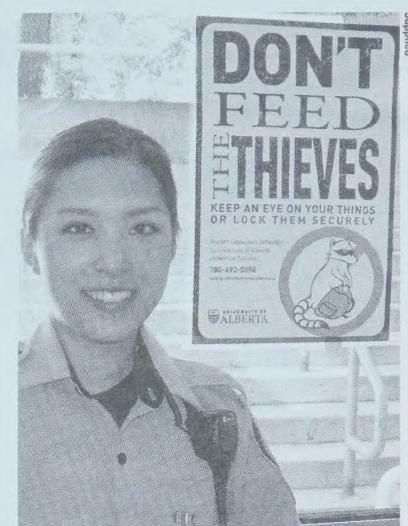
Mowbray says most of the criminals come to campus from outside and have an easy time blending in. "Thieves have an uncanny knack for being invisible," he says. "But they are among us and they know just what they're looking for. They can grab your computer, slip it in a backpack and be across the river on the LRT before anyone's noticed a thing."

Protective Services concluded that the most effective response would be for people simply to take better care of their property. This called for an awareness campaign and a memorable slogan. The "Don't Feed the Thieves" concept was born during a discussion

among Protective Services officers. Tony Larson, a patrol supervisor, came up with it, Mowbray says. "It fit perfectly. We wanted something to cause people to increase vigilance without causing unnecessary fear. This seemed to strike the right balance."

Over the summer, Protective Services consulted numerous campus groups, including libraries, the Students' Union, Graduate Students' Association and communications experts across the university. With the favourable feedback received, they took the concept to the university's marketing and communications department.

"The artist came back with the design, including the idea for using the raccoon, a week later. It was just what we were looking for. We didn't have to change it at all," says Mowbray.



Peace officer Iris Lea reminds you to guard against theft.

Resistance to antibiotics may be as old as life itself

Brian Murphy

Diseases with the ability to resist antibiotics are often considered a modern phenomenon, but a University of Alberta researcher specializing in the ice age is part of a Canadian team that is reporting that microbes have been building their defenses to antibiotics since the time of woolly mammoths.

Manufactured antibiotics have been available since the 1940s and many of the targeted, disease-laden microbes have evolved and become drug resistant. One explanation for the chink in the armor of antibiotics is the overuse of common germ-fighting drugs.

"The ancient DNA found in the permafrost shows that these microbes have been battling for survival against natural antibiotics for at least 30,000 years and represents evidence for the evolutionary back-story of the challenges of modern antibacterial resistance," said Duane Froese, professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

Working with colleagues from McMaster University—Gerry Wright, an



Researchers drill a permafrost core for ancient DNA studies in Klondike area in the Yukon.

infectious disease expert, and Hendrik Poinar, a specialist in ancient DNA—Froese has been able to show that antibiotic-resistance genes are present in permafrost deposits from the unglaciated area of the Yukon. The group used a technique known as ancient sedimentary DNA, which involves sampling of ancient sediments and extracting DNA from plants, animals and bacteria when they were laid down thousands of years ago. Froese says the research was focused on the Klondike region of the Yukon because his U of A group had a good understanding of the plants and animals they could expect to find traces of.

Froese and U of A colleague Fabrice

Calmels, a post-doctoral research fellow, were able to date the resistant genes because they were found at the same sediment levels in the permafrost as DNA from known Pleistocene animals such as mammoths, horses, bison and plant materials found only in the area during last glacial stage, which occurred about 30,000 years ago.

"Our findings question the hypothesis that the emergence of antibiotic resistance is a contemporary issue," said Froese. "We've unearthed a rich history of antibiotic resistance and this information could help develop solutions to this aged-old and naturally occurring process."

McCalla winner embraces 'technology odyssey'

Jane Hurley

Smaller, sleeker, faster, cheaper, easier.

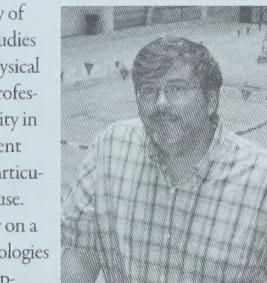
That's the reality of the fast-paced world of technology, where today's brave new gadget is tomorrow's clunky paperweight.

It's also where new technological devices to measure physical activity are fast becoming commonplace as scientists seek better, more accurate and robust measures of physical activity output of participants in their studies.

John Spence, a researcher in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation who studies the impact of the built environment on physical activity behaviours, and a 2011 McCalla professorship recipient, sees enormous opportunity in embracing these ingenious new measurement devices in his research and teaching, and particularly in training graduate students in their use.

Consequently, Spence will spend a year on a "technology odyssey" examining the technologies available around the globe and then developing a graduate-level course on physical activity measurement designed to give graduate students a thorough grounding in measurement technology theory and practice.

The need is undeniable, he says. "As the cost of technology has decreased so there's been a growing demand for technologies that were exorbitantly priced a year ago, and that are suddenly well within financial reach," he says. "As a result of that, there's an expectation that, even for a master's thesis, if the student is measuring physical activity, a more direct measure is required."



John Spence

standard for attracting research funding and having one's papers accepted by high-impact journals.

"The current standard in the literature is that unless you're doing some direct measure of activity it's unlikely that you'll get published—and definitely not in the journals we consider the good- to top-rated journals," says Spence. "In Canada it will become more and more difficult to acquire research funding for the same reason. It's important, then, that our students are being exposed to these devices so they can understand what the choices are and how to use them."

Spence says the new technologies will also enhance his own research measuring physical and sedentary behaviours as influenced by the built environment. "Accurately measuring physical activity output is becoming more important because we are tying levels of activity to health outcomes, things like cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes and childhood obesity prevention, and so on—and that measurement error is problematic in trying to demonstrate those associations or effects," he says.

The new measurement technologies will be particularly useful when participants are self-reporting their physical activity for a study.

"When people are self-reporting their physical activity, there is a fair amount of error," Spence says. "There are many new and more accurate devices out there to help us do that and because of rapid advances in technology the devices are becoming much cheaper and much smaller, so there's much less burden on the participant to wear them or use them and, from a researcher's point-of-view, the cost of purchasing the items in bulk is not as prohibitive as it used to be."

Embracing technology has already become the new gold

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- In public spaces: Don't leave your things, even for a few minutes. Take valuables with you or leave them in the care of someone you trust.

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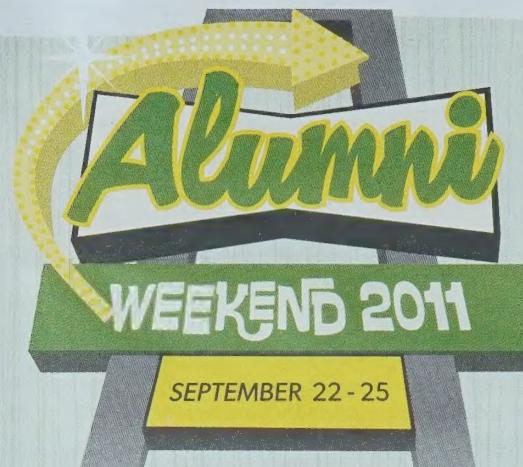
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The Big Top Tuck Shop is the centre of the action during Alumni Weekend! Entertainment, cinnamon buns, and information about all that's happening!

Friday's speakers & musicians

- 11 am - Don Hickey, '71 BSc(ElecEng)
- 1:30 pm - Claire Martin, '95 BSc
- 3 pm - Cristelle Audet, '04 PhD
- 4 pm - Dr. Juliet McMaster, '63 MA, '65 PhD, '09 DLitt(Hon)
- Music by Democrafunk and The Collective West

Saturday's speakers & musicians

- 10 am - Shirley Hopkinson, '81 BEd, '82 MEd, '86 PhD
- 12 pm - John Geiger, '81 BA
- Music by The Be Arthurs and Marie-Josée Ouimet



Thursday, September 22

Alumni Recognition Awards Free

7 – 8:30 pm

Salute U of A graduates who have made a name for themselves in their professions & communities.

Distinguished Alumni Award

John Godel, '53 BSc, '55 MD
Claire Martin, '95 BSc
Marguerite Trussler, '69 BA, '70 LLB and Francis Price, '75 LLB
Tom Radford, '66 BA

Alumni Honour Award

Tim Berrett, '97 PhD
Larry Booi, '68 BA, '89 BEd
Hugh Bradley, '54 BSc(Ag)
Chetwyn C. H. Chan, '92 BSc(OT), '95 PhD
Linda R. Gadwa, '99 BEd, '06 Dip(Ed), '09 MEd
Michel R. Gagné, '87 BSc
John Grigsby Geiger, '81 BA
M. Elizabeth (Betty) Gourlay, '66 Dip(Nu), '67 BSc(Nu)
Jason Kapalka, '92 BA, '94 MA
Larry Y. Louie, '82 BSc
John (Jack) H. Nodwell, '64 BSc(Eng)
Felix Otterson, '44 BA, '49 Dip(Ed), '53 BEd
Lorne Sawula, '67 BPE, '69 MA, '77 PhD
Alfred Sorensen, '83 BCom
Cora Weber-Pillwax, '77 BEd, '92 MEd, '03 PhD
Jeffrey G. Whissell, '98 BSc(Pharm)

The Alumni Centenary Award for Volunteer Service

Lloyd Malin, '65 BA, '70 LLB, '03 LLD(Honorary)

Award of Excellence

Trevor Anderson, '95 BA
Shannon S. D. Bredin, '96 BPE, '96 BEd, '98 MSc
Todd Cherniawsky, '93 BFA
Christopher Opio, '94 PhD
Nathan Whitling, '93 BCom, '97 LLB

Alumni Horizon Award

Cristelle Audet, '04 PhD
Amanda Babichuk, '01 BCom
Ken Bautista, '99 BEd
Claire Clark, '02 BEd
Farrah Salima Ebrahim, '00 BA
Duncan Miano Wambugu, '99 BA(Augustana), '03 MMus

The Honourable Dr. Lois E. Hole Student Spirit Award

Leona Semenoff
Alim Nagji

Sports Wall of Fame

Dru Marshall, '82 MSc, '89 PhD
Darrell Menard, '76 BPE, '81 MA
Ted Poplawski, '77 BA, '78 Cert(Arts), '80 BEd

Family-friendly event

Events with a cost

Friday, September 23

- Devonian Botanic Garden Tour & Lunch
- Human Ecology Clothing & Textiles Tours
- Arts FAB – After Hours
- Education Homecoming Luncheon
- Dean's Engineering Alumni Reception
- Phys. Ed. & Rec. Pub Night
- PERAA AGM

The Stargazer

9 pm – 1 am

This cocktail & DJ party will be in the freshly minted CCIS building.



CAMPUS TOURS

Register at the Big Top Tuck Shop (limited space, register early to reserve your spot).

- Athabasca Hall Centenary Tour
- Bug Bonanza!
- Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS)
- Fantastic Fossils & Magnificent Minerals
- Campus Art Walk
- Campus Art Indoors
- Campus Sustainability Tours
- Geoscience Garden
- Nano-physics and Laser Laboratories
- See the Stars
- Timms Centre for Performing Arts

Saturday, September 24

- Agricultural Life & Environmental Sciences Alumni Brunch
- **E.L. Empey Lecture**
Dr. Susan Ashdown, professor of fiber science & apparel design at Cornell University
- Athletics Alumni Reunion
- School of Business Dean's Brunch & Open House
- Dean's Engineering Alumni Breakfast (Class of 1966 and earlier)
- Engineering Cocktail Reception
- Fraternally Yours Open House
- Law Open House & Dean's Lunch
- Library and Information Studies Alumni Pastry Brunch
- Medical Reunion Reception
- Dental Hygiene Reunion Reception
- Native Studies Tea & Bannock
- Nursing Alumni Lunch
- Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Dean's Brunch & Tour of the Katz Centre
- Phys. Ed. & Rec. Admin. Breakfast with the Dean (25, 40 & 50-year classes)
- School of Public Health Alumni Brunch
- Rehab Medicine Forums & Brunch
- Science Tours
- University Male Chorus Reunion & Concert
- Golden Bears Football vs University of Regina
- Rutherford Library celebrates 60 years — Brunch

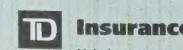
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Giving fossils a new look

Ryan Heise

You wouldn't expect studying fossils to be a part of engineering research, but a team in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering is applying computer engineering ingenuity to find a new method for digitizing, studying and sharing microfossil samples.

Professor Dileepan Joseph, PhD candidate Adam Harrison, and master's of science student Cindy Wong have developed a new way to digitally capture and display microfossils and other specimens, called Virtual Reflected-Light Microscopy.

The process is achieved by capturing a series of digital images of a microfossil through a microscope. Each image is taken with a light source shifted at different points around the sample, which creates different shadows on its surface.

This allows the team to extract a three-dimensional map of the sample, which computer software can further interpret. The result is imagery that is on par with viewing a real microfossil sample. Users can control the angle, intensity and type of light hitting the sample, and can even view it using 3-D glasses.

"In the past, researchers might get a few images of a specimen under a few lighting conditions. It would give them the general outline and some other properties, but it was not comparable to actually looking at a specimen," Harrison said. "What we're doing is like reverse engineering; using multiple images together to extract the shape of samples. And with that we get important properties such as surface reflectance."

Harrison says this imaging technology could facilitate a massive digital library of samples that can be accessed through



(L-R) Cindy Wong, Adam Harrison and Dileepan Joseph show off their microscope setup used to capture images of microfossils.

a web browser. He says this eliminates the need for researchers to travel to view samples that are stored in large repositories all over the world.

"You can have the best digital representation in the world, but if you can't share it, it doesn't matter," Harrison said.

For her part in the project, Wong developed a Java applet that allows end users to interact with the samples in a simple, intuitive way.

"This is a much closer representation of using an actual microscope," she said. "It is also a way to share information with a larger audience easily and more cost effectively."

The method could change the way geoscientists examine the vast quantity of microscopic samples that are collected through projects like the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program. These microfossils provide researchers with information that is crucial for climate study, and oil and gas exploration. ■

Making a living wall



The living wall is made up of 1,800 plants featured over three H-shaped sections.

Sandra Pysklywec

As students and staff head back to campus after the summer break, the Tory Business Atrium has a new look. A living wall now adorns the north wall of the space.

The idea of installing a living wall was born out of a conversation between Ray Dumouchel, associate director of facilities and operations, and Wayne McCutcheon, manager of landscape maintenance and construction.

The living wall is made up of 1,800 plants and is featured over three "H" shaped sections. While one might think that the shapes were intentional, "it was merely designed that way to cover up the dark brick on that side of the building," said Dumouchel. "The design shape, though, is fitting for Henry Marshall Tory and I think he would have approved."

The plants are in flowing lines and, in addition to providing a visual improvement to the space, will also improve air quality, says McCutcheon.

"Considering how much time we spend indoors in winter, the revitalized space will provide a nice place to take a break from the elements outside," said McCutcheon.

The wall itself, McCutcheon says, is fairly low maintenance and will require little watering. "The atrium is even brighter now that the trees are no longer

there, which allows for more natural light," he said. "It changes the way the whole space looks."

The trees, which have been a fixture in the atrium for the past 25 years, are no longer in the space. "They reached their life expectancy and needed to be removed after years of trying to deal with an aphid problem," said McCutcheon.

Dumouchel and McCutcheon are part of the team responsible for buildings and grounds on campus and, despite having to remove the trees, they wanted to bring the outdoors inside for all to enjoy. The solution after some research was a living wall.

The team working with Dumouchel and McCutcheon worked tirelessly to get the space ready for September and provide a welcome-back atmosphere for students and staff.

"We wanted to make it a space where students and staff could meet, eat their lunches and just relax. We hope with the new look that it'll be a welcoming space," said Dumouchel.

Plans are already underway to change the planters seasonally to keep the look of the space fresh.

Dumouchel won't rule out the idea of other living walls on campus, but will wait to see how this "first" works for his team before considering adding future living walls in other parts of campus as space and budget permits.

"We're really excited to welcome everyone back to this new space." ■

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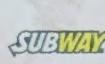
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Less might be more in controlling Type 2 diabetes

Jane Hurly

It's common enough for researchers to look at the effects of prescribed drugs on the body. And if you're a diabetes researcher who believes that exercise has great benefits for those with Type 2 diabetes, you're hoping your research will show that. But when Normand Boulé looked at the dual impacts of exercise and metformin—two of the most commonly prescribed modalities for glucose control—on that very outcome, the hoped-for double whammy wasn't the result.

Ten men and women between 30 and 65 with Type 2 diabetes who were not taking glucose-lowering medication or insulin for their condition were recruited into the

study. Participants were randomly assigned to take metformin or a placebo for the first 28 days of the study, then crossed over so those taking the placebo received metformin and vice versa for a second 28-day period. On the last two days of each time period, participants were assessed during a non-exercise and a subsequent exercise day. Exercise took place in the morning and involved a total of 35 minutes performed at three

different submaximal intensities.

Boulé, a professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, explains that metformin is thought to reduce glucose in the blood by activating exercise-like pathways. By combining exercise with metformin, Boulé says his team was looking for an outcome where the sum of the whole would be greater than the individual glucose-control paths.

"As expected, our study showed that metformin lowered the blood-glucose concentrations measured during a two-hour period after lunch," said Boulé. "But we found that on the non-exercise day, metformin led to better glucose control after lunch than on the day our participants took metformin and exercised."

Normand Boulé

Boulé theorizes that because both metformin and exercise act to lower glucose levels, the combination may have triggered a counter regulatory response by the body to prevent glucose levels from dipping too much.

"During exercise, glucagon (a hormone secreted by the pancreas that raises glucose levels) concentrations increased in the blood but when we combined exercise and metformin the glucagon levels were almost twice as elevated."

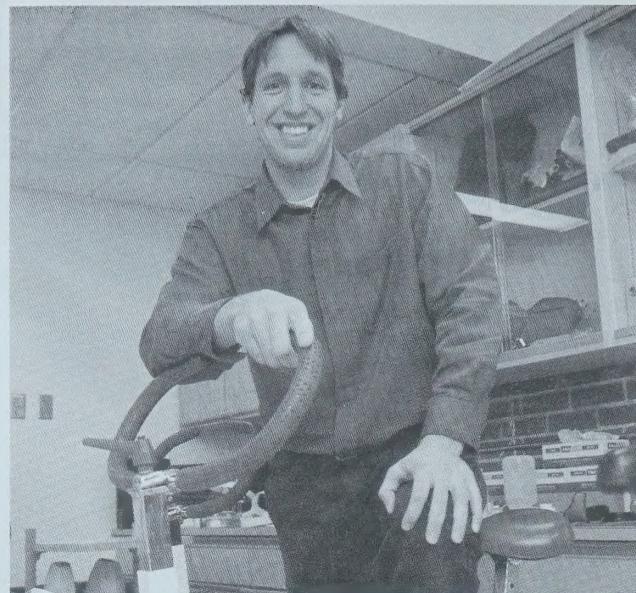
Boulé says the findings of their study were also likely effected by the timing of meals relative to the exercise session participants underwent and that the intensity of exercise may have had an effect as well, including the fact that these levels were measured after a single bout of exercise as opposed to regular daily exercise.

In terms of the other foci of the study, Boulé says this study was consistent with previous studies that saw participants experience slightly increased lactate levels, and increased use of fats as an energy source during exercise. However, he believes his study was the first to document a significantly increased heart rate—six beats per minute on average—when performing aerobic exercise of various intensities with metformin.

Boulé says despite these findings, "exercise has hundreds of benefits" and should still be an important part of a healthy approach to glucose control for those with diabetes, including those taking metformin.

"What we've learned is that the relationship between exercise and metformin is complex, and this opens the door for more research to examine how different treatments work together, especially because exercise is widely prescribed for people with diabetes and metformin is often the drug of choice for treating Type 2 diabetes."

This study was funded by the Alberta Diabetes Institute and recently published in the journal *Diabetes Care*. ■



Normand Boulé looked at the combination of exercise and glucose-control medication.

Exercise has hundreds of benefits and should still be an important part of a healthy approach to glucose control for those with diabetes, including those taking metformin."

Normand Boulé



Call for Consultation

By the Dean Selection Committee,
Faculty of Native Studies

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As Dr. Ellen Bielawski has stepped down as Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies, Dr. Nathalie Kermoal has been appointed Interim Dean until a new Dean can be found. A Selection Committee has been established in accordance with University regulations and is now in search of a new Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies.

At this point, the Selection Committee is calling for opinion on the leadership needs of the Faculty in the years ahead and on any other key issues. Individuals are urged to contact members of the Committee, or write to me as Chair, to express their views on priorities of the Faculty, current issues, and the future direction of the Faculty. All feedback may be shared with the Selection Committee. In order to facilitate the Committee's work, **please submit your comments by Monday, October 17, 2011**.

Please also mark your calendars for the Town Hall Meeting to be held Monday, September 12th, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall.

In addition, individuals who wish to stand as a candidate are invited to apply. Individuals may also nominate others who they feel would be suitable candidates.

The selection of a Dean is vital to the success of the Faculty. I would therefore ask all interested persons, who have some stake in the outcome of this process, to take the time, even at this busy point in the academic year, to give some thought to the future of this Faculty. Your views are important to us. Thank you for your assistance.

Please forward your comments to the address below or to any member of the Dean Selection Committee (contact information at left).

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Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Chair, Dean Selection Committee
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Edmonton, AB T6G 2J9
E-Mail: provost@ualberta.ca

Jamie Hanlon

A popular Rolling Stones tune once offered that one can't always get what one wants.

However, a University of Alberta researcher says that, in a bid by retailers to give the people exactly what they want, the confusing selection of products that consumers are left with makes it hard for some to figure out what they want—or need.

The fact that more is not necessarily better is something that retailers need to consider lest they lose shoppers to a rival that is happy to offer a smaller selection of goods, says Alberta School of Business professor Kyle Murray.

Murray's findings stem from a study that he co-wrote with Janet Buczak from the Research Intelligence Group that was drawn from a telephone survey of more than 3,000 shoppers in Canada and the United States. The study found that, while some segments of the population may be happy with the confounding cavalcade of choice, smart retailers target the buyer's habits and not their wish list of products.

Making the shopping experience easier for certain target groups, such as seniors, makes for a better business model, says Murray.

"The interesting thing from the retail perspective is that seniors are a growing demographic of increasing importance and affluence," he said, explaining that some retailers are building smaller neighbourhood-style stores with less selection, which attracts seniors and other shoppers seeking the "less is more" choice when shopping.

"It might sound counter-intuitive to say that people will be happier if you give them fewer choices, but that strategy works for some segments of consumers," he said.

The survey also indicated that when it comes to deciding what product to buy, retailers should not bet it all on marketing and advertising, especially in the Canadian market.

Murray explains that when American retailers set up shop north of the border, they typically follow

Consumers in a crisis of choice

Jamie Hanlon

the same model used for the home market. What the survey noted, says Murray, is that when it comes to choosing a product, Canadians are less swayed by the advertising or marketing for the product than their American counterparts and also less confident in the purchase decisions they make because of advertising.

"Canadians place more emphasis on things like word-of-mouth and actual product use," says Murray.

Another distinction is the Canadian reliance on customer service in a store. Canadians like more assistance from a salesperson than Americans do.

Murray says that the role and focus of small retailers is important, especially for the medium and large stores looking to consolidate their choices into smaller locales. He says the pushback over too much choice in the marketplace is what makes these smaller stores more attractive to people.

The small retailer, he says, will have several thousand regulars who are happy with the product selection of that store. And, as more shoppers become disenchanted by stores that have a selection that makes the shopping process harder, it makes sense for larger retailers to try to follow a model of a small, targeted product selection.

"The small retailer with less square footage and fewer products has to make those hard decisions about what he's going to carry and which customers he is going to serve, whereas a big box store of 100,000 square feet is almost taking the opposite approach," said Murray. "It's actually one of these cases where the small retailer has a big advantage." ■



Kyle Murray

It might sound counter-intuitive to say that people will be happier if you give them fewer choices, but that strategy works for some segments of consumers."

Kyle Murray

Finding ways to help kids overcome boredom

Jamie Hanlon

I'm bored." It's a line that parents likely hear throughout the year. But, as students prepare to head back to classes for the start of a new school year, one University of Alberta researcher says these understimulated learners may hold the solution to their own problem.

New findings by University of Alberta researcher Lia Daniels indicate that boredom may be an internal issue for the student no matter how interesting the class may be.

She says that, while the responsibility is often placed on the teacher to make the class more interesting, the students must also use strategies to overcome their feelings of boredom in order to maximize their learning opportunities.

"As instructors, we know that no matter how interesting your lesson is, there are some students in there that perceive the situation as boring," said Daniels, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Education. "We wanted to put the onus on students—what are they themselves doing?"

Daniels and her German colleagues from the University of Kon-



Lia Daniels

stanz found from their research that students fall into three categories: re-appraisers, critics and evaders. Daniels says the re-appraisers are the most resourceful of the three as they are able to adapt and find challenges in their classes on their own. Another group, the evaders, follow true to their name and tune out of class work in favour of finding other ways to entertain themselves.

Daniels is particularly interested in the middle group, the critics, a label that she says may be hard for many of that group to accept. However, she says that this coterie can possibly bring about effective change in the class delivery.

The caveat, of course, is finding the best way to communicate the need for change to the teacher.

"They are the students who might say to a teacher, 'you know, this isn't particularly challenging. Can I read a different book; can I do some extra research on this? How can I change this so that it is not as boring for me as an individual,'" said Daniels. "I actually think that could be a very adaptive strategy if it was well-received within learning environments. However, finding the right place and the proper context for those discus-

sions are very important."

The evaders are perhaps the most challenging group, says Daniels, and one of the main reasons this group gets bored is that they don't see value in what they are learning. In this case, she says, parents and teachers need to find ways to constructively help them understand the real value in their learning, something that may alleviate their negative view of their work.

Determining the root cause of boredom is key, she says, and is the crucial first step for parents who want to help their children overcome their academic ennui. The issue may be that they are under-challenged in the class or that the material is too difficult and they are unable to understand the concepts necessary to do the work. Many parents may be inclined to go to the teacher first, but Daniels cautions that without knowing where the issue lies, making a beeline for the school may be a wasted trip.

"As parents, we need to stop and think, 'why might my child be bored? Is it the work or are they bored because they tend to be bored by everything that's in their life,'" she said. "Identifying the source of boredom is one of the things parents can do that can help them understand whether that's something that they can help their child work on or whether it really is an issue to take up with teachers." ■

Famed biologist wrote the 'fish bible'

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta biologist who literally wrote the book on the world's fish died after a lengthy battle with leukemia in early August. Joseph Nelson was 74.

Born in San Francisco, Calif. on April 12, 1937, Nelson's family moved to British Columbia when he was eight months old.

Nelson had a childhood fascination with astronomy, but turned to fish as an undergraduate student at the University of British Columbia. Nelson obtained his bachelor of science degree from UBC while doing field work for the federal fisheries before taking up residence at the U of A to do his master's studying fish in the Kananaskis River.

Nelson left Edmonton for UBC in 1965 to complete his PhD, before returning to the U of A in 1968 to take a job as an assistant professor of zoology.

Much of Nelson's research on Alberta fishes was on pelvicless sticklebacks, but his discoveries reached far beyond Alberta waters, as he described 15 marine fish species worldwide and co-wrote the description of four more. Three living fish species and one fossil fish are named after him.

Nelson also received numerous awards throughout his career, including the honour of being the only Canadian to receive The Robert H. Gibbs Jr. Memorial Award for an



Joseph Nelson

outstanding body of published work in systematic ichthyology, handed out by the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

Nelson also had heavy involvement in a number of conservation associations, most notably as a long-time member with the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, serving primarily on the Freshwater Fishes Specialist Subcommittee.

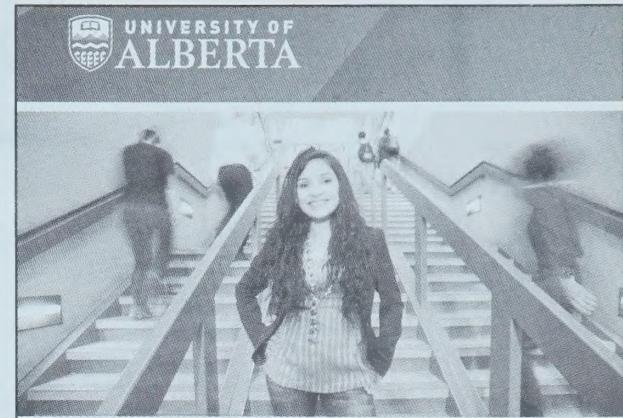
All told, Nelson ended his career with more than 100 publications to his name, including two editions of *Fishes of Alberta*, and four editions of a family-level synopsis of the world's 25,000 fish entitled *Fishes of the World*, which Jan Murie, fellow professor emeritus in the Department of Biological Sciences and friend to Nelson, referred to as the "Fish Bible."

"*Fishes of the World* has stood as the leading text on fish for more than 30 years, which is unheard of," said Murie.

And while Nelson will be remembered in the public eye as a great fish researcher and one of the U of A's most famous biologists, people who knew him personally remember him as more of a fishing buddy.

"Joseph was good natured, easy to get along with and seemed quite sympathetic to his students," said George Ball, professor emeritus in biological sciences. "He was just a great person to be around."

A memorial for Nelson will be held at the Faculty Club on Sept. 30 starting at 3:30 p.m. ■



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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

In an effort to ensure folio is meeting the needs of its readership, we are asking for just a few moments of your time to fill out a 10 question readership survey.

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By participating, your name will be entered into a draw for a number of prizes, including a prized Butterdome butter dish.

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—HENRY MARSHALL TORY, FOUNDING PRESIDENT, 1905

Call for Consultation

By the Dean Selection Committee,
Alberta School of Business

UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA

DEAN SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

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As Dr. Mike Percy has stepped down as Dean of the Faculty of Business, Dr. Tom Scott has been appointed Interim Dean until a new Dean can be found. A Selection Committee has been established in accordance with University regulations and is now in search of a new Dean of the Faculty of Business (also known as the Alberta School of Business).

At this point, the Selection Committee is calling for opinion on the leadership needs of the School in the years ahead and on any other key issues. Individuals are urged to contact members of the Committee, or write to me as Chair, to express their views on priorities of the School, current issues, and the future direction of the School. All feedback may be shared with the Selection Committee. In order to facilitate the Committee's work, please submit your comments by Monday, September 19, 2011.

Please also mark your calendars for the Town Hall Meeting to be held Friday, September 9th, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in Room 4-06, Business.

In addition, individuals who wish to stand as a candidate are invited to apply. Individuals may also nominate others who they feel would be suitable candidates.

The selection of a Dean is vital to the success of the School. I would therefore ask all interested persons, who have some stake in the outcome of this process, to take the time, even at this busy point in the academic year, to give some thought to the future of this School. Your views are important to us. Thank you for your assistance.

Please forward your comments to the address below or to any member of the Dean Selection Committee (contact information at left).

Carl G. Amrhein
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Chair, Dean Selection Committee
2-10 University Hall
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T6G 2J9
E-Mail: provost@ualberta.ca

news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to www.expressnews.ualberta.ca.

Helping people with dementia catch some Z's

To help dementia sufferers learn everything there is to know about sleep, University of Alberta Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine researcher Cary Brown has launched a first-of-its-kind website that brings together the best and proven resources on sleep.

"Sleep is a critical but overlooked aspect of dementia management," said the associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. "As many as 40 to 70 per cent of people with dementia will also have sleep disorders. I wanted to raise awareness about the topic and give health-care providers and the general public resources and knowledge."

Sleep disorders interfere with memory, problem-solving and overall daily function. Sleep problems not only increase the risks of fall and fractures, but also contribute to depression, irritability and aggression. "Family caregivers of people with dementia can also become sleep deprived and in turn, their health also suffers."

"Non-pharmacological strategies for better sleep are important," said Brown. "Research has found taking medication to help sleep increases the risk of falling because of daytime grogginess. We need to condition ourselves to get healthy sleep."

Brown's website has many research-based resources and sleep tips for people with dementia, their family and their caregivers. To visit the site, go to www.wix.com/carybrown/sleep-dementia.

U of A fiddler is Canadian Grand Master

Daniel Gervais has won first prize and the title of Canadian Grand Master at the 2011 Annual Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition held in Ottawa Aug. 27. Gervais is the first-ever Alberta fiddler to win the Canadian Grand Masters, the second Western Canadian fiddler to win the competition, and only the third fiddler outside Ontario to win it since the inaugural competition in 1990. The first-place winner receives \$3,500 and a trophy sponsored by the Renfrew County Fiddlers.

Gervais plays a variety of fiddle styles as well as classical violin. Along with a busy schedule of performing, recording, and teaching, Gervais is currently completing a bachelor of music degree at the U of A, where he studies with Guillaume Tardif.

Focusing on physical activity participation through life

In an age of spiraling inactivity and escalating obesity across the planet, a new collection of research articles focused on participation in sport and physical activity across the lifespan has just been released. Nick Holt, a professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation who has co-edited the new book, says the book's key message is to recognize the significant contribution that physical activity makes to health and well-being at every stage of life.

"Our goal was to include contributions from researchers in as many different countries and continents as possible to reflect the international aspect," says Holt, whose own research focuses on children's and adolescents' participation in sport and physical activity. "We also wanted the articles to reflect physical activity and sport participation across the lifespan, from childhood to older adulthood. Finally, our goal was to create a multidisciplinary collection."

This volume is titled *Lifelong Engagement in Sport and Physical Activity – Participation and performance across the lifespan*. With contributions from 22 scholars in eight countries and four continents, this multi-dimensional collection of research knowledge will be an important resource for students and professors in the field, says Holt.

"The primary message [is that] there are significant benefits—mental, physical, emotional, social, educational and vocational—at every stage of life," said Holt.

Researchers win funding award to study neuropathic pain

Three researchers in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry have been recognized for the important contributions they have made to ultimately help those who suffer from neuropathic pain—a type of chronic pain that affects an estimated one million Canadians.

Neuropathic pain happens when nerves become damaged and then send wrong signals to the brain, resulting in pain in a particular part of the body. People with multiple sclerosis, diabetes, phantom limb syndrome and spinal-cord injuries can experience this type of pain, as well as those with other conditions. Symptoms usually involve a sensation of burning, shooting or tingling.

Pfizer Canada handed out five monetary awards to outstanding Canadian researchers who are furthering the study of neuropathic pain. Two of those awards were given to the U of A: Peter Smith, a researcher in the Department of Pharmacology, and the team of Bradley Kerr, a researcher in the departments of anesthesiology and pain medicine and pharmacology, and Glen Baker, a researcher in the Department of Psychiatry. Each award is \$150,000 over two years.

Competition for fellowship awards

Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions is pleased to announce that there will be a competition for doctoral and post-doctoral fellowship awards this fall, with an application deadline of Oct. 3. For more information on the awards, go to Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions (www.ahfrm.ab.ca) and look under "research funding" and "training programs," or contact Carla Weyland (carla.weyland@albertainnovates.ca) or Pamela Valentine (pamela.valentine@albertainnovates.ca).

Remembering Fu-Shiang Chia

Folio Staff

The University of Alberta is mourning the loss of one of its all-time great biologists, administrators and people, who lived a life so rich and full it is hard to believe he was just one man. Fu-Shiang Chia died Aug. 22 after an extended illness. He was 80.

Born in Shandong, China, in 1931, Chia was born into a desperately poor family whose only literate member was his grandfather, an itinerant countryside judge and feng shui master, who, when Chia was seven years old, began to give the future scholar rigorous lessons in Chinese classical literature. Though illiterate, the boy's mother was a natural, gifted storyteller who recognized in her fourth son an unusual intelligence and an extraordinarily curious nature. When he was 15 she urged him to "go far away," wanting him to procure an education somehow and to develop his mind to its full potential.

After a stint in the nationalist army, Chia began to study for his bachelor of science degree in biology at the National Normal University of Taiwan. In 1961, his academic excellence gained him a scholarship to the University of Washington in Seattle, where he earned a master's of science



Fu-Shiang Chia

and a PhD in marine invertebrates.

Chia moved from the West Coast in 1969 to the join the U of A's Department of Zoology. Although he maintained an active research presence at the Friday Harbor Laboratories of the University of Washington and at the U of A's Bamfield Marine Station on Vancouver Island, Chia says he was often questioned about a landlocked university's interest in ocean animals.

"Many people ask us, 'Why is Alberta, a prairie university, interested in marine studies?' My answer is that, because we are a prairie university, we must be. We must educate our students to that fantastic system, otherwise we deprive them of exposure to a very large quantity of knowledge," he said in 1987.

From 1978 to 1983, Chia was chair of the Department of Biology, and from 1983 to 1993 he was the dean of the university's Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, where he led by example to instill his own virtues of devotion to academic excellence, fairness, innovation and integrity.

Chia, a devoted family man, established a world-wide reputation for his academic work, publishing more than 200 refereed scientific articles and four books on his specialization on intertidal invertebrate marine animals, but it was his work as a mentor that set him apart.

"[Dr. Chia] showed me how to be compassionate, how to be a good mentor and teacher, and how to basically handle people," said former long-time zoology lab co-ordinator Ron Koss in 2007. "Only in the last few years have I really come to appreciate how much I learned from him."

Chia was recruited in the mid-1990s by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology as a professor to help that university in its ambitious program to become the MIT or Cal Tech of Asia. After four years there he enjoyed a brief stint as the director of the Taiwan National Aquarium before returning to Edmonton.

Probably his greatest scholarly contribution to the world—and certainly his favourite work—was his 2008 publication of a tri-lingual translation of the *Shi Jing*, the oldest extant collection of lyric poetry in the patrimony of world literature, translating the classic Chinese text into modern Chinese and on into contemporary English.

Although his pure marine research days were behind him by the time his translation of the *Shi Jing*, entitled *Airs to the State*, was published, Chia's search for answers continued on through his art.

"There is almost no art which can be divorced from the natural world," he wrote in *Airs to the State*. "We need biodiversity. Nature's creatures are necessary for humanity's survival, and birds, beasts, grasses and trees are our soul."

- with files from Stephen Arnold

Many people ask us, 'Why is Alberta, a prairie university, interested in marine studies?'
My answer is that, because we are a prairie university, we must be. We must educate our students to that fantastic system, otherwise we deprive them of exposure to a very large quantity of knowledge."

Fu-Shiang Chia

classified ads

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UNIVERSITY, #501, 11011 86 AVENUE, 1 bedroom plus den, turnkey furnished, underground parking, secure. \$1,600/month. Call Michael Jenner or Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email jennfra@interbaun.com. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp.

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DOWNTOWN, #707, 10108 125 STREET. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, executive high-rise. \$2,200/month. Call Michael Jenner or Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email jennfra@interbaun.com. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp.

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ALLENDALE. New, bright, furnished 2 bedroom basement suite minutes to U of A. Utilities, wifi, cable, fireplace, dishwasher. Sept. 15. \$800/month. Victoria 780-719-4937.

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LARGE ON-CAMPUS APARTMENT. Adjacent to campus at 11027 87 Ave. 2 bedroom, 2 bath plus den unit features a fantastic 10th floor view. Recently totally redone. New dishwasher and fridge, front-load washer and dryer. 2 large bedrooms, living room/dining room, additional room (den/office or separate dining room). A/C, underground parking, pool, hot tub, sauna. Ideal for new faculty, post doc etc. Unfurnished \$1,900 or semi-furnished. Utilities included. Yearly lease. David Jones, 780-469-8877 or 780-224-1860. david.jones@ualberta.ca

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OLD STRATHCONA. 954 sq. ft. adorable character home. Open design features hardwood, gas fireplace, eat-up counter, lots of cupboard and counter space in kitchen. 2 bedrooms with good closet space. Beautiful bathroom. 6 ft. basement dry and usable. Quaint yard. Single car garage. Property lovingly maintained. Close to U of A or downtown. \$418K. Call Kim Stubbs RE/MAX Accord. 780-974-3357.

WHYTE AVENUE/U OF A AREA. Tidy 1 bedroom condo. Excellent access to university and amenities. Renovated. Contact 780-722-8047.

GARNEU 2 STOREY CHARACTER HOME. Unique opportunity one block from U of A and river valley. 3 plus 1 bedrooms, 2 bath, double garage. Priced to sell \$49K. 10927 88 Avenue. Call Amina Sai Remax Elite. 780-905-5566.

STEPS FROM BELGRAVIA LRT STOP. Spectacular 5 bedroom, 2,048 sq. ft. (2,888 total) home. Huge loft. Built 1992. Separate 2 bedroom basement in-law suite. <http://propertyguys.com/275020> or 780-988-9224.

ACCOMMODATIONS WANTED

SABBATICAL. Responsible, tidy, mature graduate interested in house sitting. References available. Gardener. Pets welcome. Contact 780-439-1694.

Campus mourns loss of wildlife expert

Michel Proulx

University of Alberta wildlife expert Bob Hudson died Aug. 17.

Hudson had retired last year, after a 36-year career as a wildlife-management scientist. He had been diagnosed with Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, after having successfully fought cancer for the better part of a decade.

"True to the spirit that he showed throughout his life, Bob remained positive, never complaining, to the end," said John Kennelly, dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences. "Bob certainly was a wonderful role model to his colleagues and students and no words can describe the feeling of grief and loss at his passing."

Hudson had held a joint appointment between the departments of renewable resources and agricultural, food and nutritional science and retired while also serving as associate dean (international), a job for which he was, says Kennelly, a natural fit given his international experience and knowledge.

He developed an interest in wildlife



Bob Hudson

while growing up in Manitoba.

"I was always interested in wildlife, particularly waterfowl, because they were close at hand, but I always dreamed of working with something larger and more dramatic," he said in an interview last year upon his retirement.

That dream led him to Africa when in the late 1970s, where he was invited to serve as a senior ecologist for the World Bank Very Large Herbivore Study, which examined elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotami and buffaloes, among other large mammals.

"It opened an academic adventure that changed my view of wildlife management and, indeed, of life forever," he said.

Hudson came to the U of A from the University of British Columbia in 1974 and took a position as an assistant professor in animal science. He excelled and became a full professor in 1985. From there, Hudson's career quickly evolved beyond research and into administration as he served as associate dean (academic/international) for the faculty from 1996 to 2001. In 2007, he took over as the associate dean (international).

[A trip to Africa] opened an academic adventure that changed my view of wildlife management and, indeed, of life forever."

Bob Hudson

Throughout the different roles he filled, Hudson always maintained his research in areas such as multi-species systems and wildlife production.

Kennelly said that Hudson was a visionary.

"He was ahead of his time in so many ways. He understood that we lived in an interconnected world, that we had a responsibility towards ensuring the sustainability of our planet and that we had an obligation to reach out and help those who were less privileged."

Kennelly added that Hudson had a particularly valued member of the faculty's executive team, as he was a man not only of action, but also great ideas.

Hudson is survived by his wife Yasmin and their daughters Suraya and Tasreen. ■

- with additional files from Alexandria Eldridge

While this research can't fix the problem of climate change, we can certainly make suggestions on how to mitigate impacts for the forestry sector."

Laura Gray

happening, and we are behind the times."

"We know the climate is changing and we are trying to determine where we can pick up seed and move it, so that trees are more closely matched to their optimal environments, creating better productivity over their lifetime."

The studies recommend that various tree seeds be planted in multiple zones that show a close climatic match for the future. "In many cases, we have found that those locations range well beyond the current seed zones."

The research also showed that trees suited to warm and dry climates—such as southern Alberta and some areas of the United States—will likely be the best choices for the forests of tomorrow. "Trees best adapted to those conditions are going to be really useful in the future," Gray said.

And while the trend in forestry is to look ahead 80 to 100 years, Gray's research recommends against that, suggesting instead that projections can realistically only stretch to 2020 or so.

Gray has made several presentations on her findings to the forestry industry, and said while the research represents a significant departure from contemporary forest management practices, changes are necessary.

"We really are suggesting a change to the way things are managed today, and while this research can't fix the problem of climate change, we can certainly make suggestions on how to mitigate impacts for the forestry sector."

Gray's research was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Alberta Forest Research Institute, as well as industry sponsors Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, Ainsworth Engineered Canada LP. ■

Reforestation practices may be lagging behind climate change

Bev Betkowski

A University of Alberta study is sounding a warning about forestry practices in North America, claiming that climate change is already rendering established planting guidelines obsolete.

"We've found that trees are already lagging in adaptation to climate change and are not performing as they should," said Laura Gray, a PhD student in the Department of Renewable Resources. "We need to change the way we manage our forests today if we want to maximize production."

Gray's findings were based on two studies she conducted for her thesis, exploring planting guidelines in the forest-rich regions of western North America, including parts of Alberta, British Columbia, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming, seeking ways to adapt to climate change that is leaving forests less productive or vulnerable to disease and pests like the Mountain Pine Beetle.

The related findings are published in the latest issues of the scientific journals *Public Library of Science* and *Ecological Applications*.

Using computer models, Gray and her colleagues analyzed the landscape of western North America, attempting to find optimal climate habitat for tree species under observed warming trends and under future climate change scenarios. Based on that data, changes could be made to what type of tree seed is planted where.

Currently, legislated forestry practices dictate that seed for reforestation cannot be transferred from designated zones where seed has been collected, but, said Gray, climate change is altering tree habitat so that the existing zones may not be the best places for current and future reforestation efforts.

"A lot of forest management strategies are based on data we have from the 1960s and 1970s, but the climate has definitely changed since then," said Gray. Her research has revealed that aspen trees—used for oriented strandboard and pulp—are already climatically mismatched for their current seed zones. In turn, that has led to much less forest productivity over the last decade, Gray said. "It's already

Jeanette Gladstone has won the High Energy Astrophysics Division Dissertation Prize from the American Astronomical Society. Gladstone won the prize for her doctoral dissertation in high-energy astrophysics while studying at the University of Durham in the UK. Gladstone focused her attention on relatively rare black holes that astronomers consider mysteriously overbright. Researchers refer to these particular black holes as ultraluminous X-ray sources ULXs.

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on Express News at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca.

Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Until Oct. 14

Portrait of a Canadian Icon: The Sir Samuel Benfield Steele Collection. This exhibition highlights fascinating items from the Steele Collection and includes original correspondence, diaries, scrapbooks, military papers, and photographs. Noon–4:30 p.m. Rutherford Library, North and South (Humanities and Social Sciences).

Sept. 12

Guest speaker. Join the Faculty of Science's Department of Chemistry in welcoming professor Masahiro Toyota of the Department of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science at the Osaka Prefecture University, Osaka, Japan, who will present "Development of Two Different Types of Palladium-Catalyzed Cycloalkenylation and Application to Bioactive Natural Product Synthesis." 11 a.m.–noon. CCIS L1-140 Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science.

Sept. 13

REEL World presents: Avenue Zero (2010). Directed by Hélène Choquette, this National Film Board documentary looks at the topic of human trafficking from a broad lens, highlighting trafficking in the areas of labor, sexual exploitation and the drug trade. 6:30–8 p.m. Stanley Milner Library.

U of A Faculty Women's Club Annual Wine & Cheese Registration Social. This will mark the club's 78th year of camaraderie. 4–6 p.m. Faculty Club. For further information, visit www.ualberta.ca/~fwc/.

Sept. 16

Celebrate! Teaching, Learning & Research. Celebrate! is co-hosted

by Carl Amrhein, the provost and vice-president (academic), and Lorne Babiuk, vice-president (research). 3:30–5 p.m., Myer Horowitz Theatre. For more information go to www.registrarservice.ualberta.ca/GraduationConvocation/Celebration-of-Teaching-and-Learning-Awards.aspx

Sept. 19

Health Law Seminar Series. David Winickoff, professor in the Department of Science, Policy & Management at the University of California (Berkeley), will give this talk entitled "University Tech Transfer & Innovation for the Poor." Free open public lecture. Noon–1 p.m. Room 237, Law Centre. RSVP hli@law.ualberta.ca.

Sept. 22 to 25

Alumni Weekend 2011. Get your friends and classmates together, bring your family and come back to campus. Join the fun as the Alumni Association and faculties offer four days of reunion events, open houses, dinners, tours and more. For more information go to <http://www.ualberta.ca/alumni/weekend>

Sept. 22

Modern-Day Slavery. Human trafficking has been referred to as modern-day slavery and is, according to the United Nations, the fastest growing crime globally. Canada is a source, destination and transit point for trafficked persons, and Alberta is not immune. Join us in this interactive information session and find out what human trafficking looks like and discover how to get involved in Alberta's response to this human rights abuse. 4–5:30 p.m. International House Meeting Room.

Sept. 22 to Oct. 1

U of A Studio Theatre presents: Doubt, A Parable. This John Patrick Shanley play showcases rule breakers pushing at society's boundaries. Tickets: \$5–\$20. For more information, go to www.studiotheatre.ca.

Sept. 24

Empey Lecture. Susan Ashdown from Cornell University, will give a talk on her expertise in the field of 3-D body scanning and apparel design, fit preference and the development of new technologies. 2–3:30 p.m. 150 Telus Centre.

Sept. 26

2011 R.B. Sandin Lecture Series Invited Speaker—Lecture 1. Vern Schramm, professor and Ruth Merns Chair of Biochemistry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine will lecture on the topic "Drug Design from Transition State Analysis." 11 a.m.–noon. CCIS L1-140 Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science.

University of Alberta medical researcher Peter Smith has been named one of the recipients of the Pfizer Neuropathic Pain Research Awards. Smith, who works at the university's Department of Pharmacology, is researching the use of new medication combinations to reduce the effect of neuropathic pain in laboratory rats.

Rod Wasylchenko, professor in the Department of Chemistry, received the 2011 Eastern Analytical Symposium Award for outstanding achievements in magnetic resonance.

Colin Soskolne has just completed a four-year term as president of the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Following years of outstanding service, he recently received the organization's Distinguished Service Award. Soskolne, professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health, is a founding member of the society, which was created in 1990 to support, nurture, promote and develop capacity for epidemiologists and biostatisticians in Canada.

Jeanette Gladstone has won the High Energy Astrophysics Division Dissertation Prize from the American Astronomical Society. Gladstone won the prize for her doctoral dissertation in high-energy astrophysics while studying at the University of Durham in the UK. Gladstone focused her attention on relatively rare black holes that astronomers consider mysteriously overbright. Researchers refer to these particular black holes as ultraluminous X-ray sources ULXs.

NEW AT THE U

The University of Alberta has spent the past couple of years retooling to better inspire teaching, learning and research.

Edmonton Clinic Health Academy



Living Wall in Tory Business Atrium.



Observatory atop the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science.



Inside the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science.



Stairways in the Katz Group Centre for Pharmacy and Health Research.



Pedway linking Education and the Heritage Medical Research Centre.